

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were pending at last examination. Claims 1-12, 18-35 have been rejected by the Office Action.

Claims 1-12, 24-35 have been cancelled.

Claims 16, 17, 18, 39 and 40 have been amended.

The examiner is thanked for allowing claims 13-17 and 36-40.

*Allowable claims amended*

Claims 16, 17, 39 and 40 have been amended to remedy informality as to antecedent basis. No new matter has been added; entry into the record is respectfully requested.

*35 US §102(e)*

The Office Action has rejected Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,992 issued to Aubert et al. (herein Aubert).

Claim 18. Claim 18 has been amended to include substantially the same limitations as allowable claim 13. No new matter has been added, entry into the record, reconsideration and allowance of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 19. As to claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is dependent upon claim 18, therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Claims 1-4, 5-8, 10, 24-26 and 29-31. Claims 1-4, 5-8, 10, 24-26 and 29-31 have been canceled.

*35 US §103*

The Office Action has rejected Claims 4, 9, 11, 12, 20-23, 27, 28, 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Aubert.

Claims 20-23. As to claims 20-23, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-23 are dependent, directly or indirectly, upon claim 18 therefore it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-23 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Claims 4, 9, 11, 12, 27, 28 and 32-35. Claims 4, 9, 11, 12, 27, 28 and 32-35 have been canceled.

**SUMMARY**

Claims 1-40 were pending at last examination. Claims 1-12, 24-35 have been cancelled.

Claims 16, 17, 18, 39 and 40 have been amended.

Claims 13-23 and 36-40 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance of all remaining pending claims is respectfully requested.

*Invitation for a telephone interview*

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 (Pacific Time) if it is felt this might be helpful in moving this case towards resolution..

*Charge our Deposit Account*

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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